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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2006. The Office Action was in regards to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision dated September 19, 2005. The decision affirmed the rejections against claims 1, 2, 7-10, 16, 20 and 23 of which claims 1, 16, 20 and 23 are independent, but reversed all rejections against claims 3-6, 11-15, 17-19 and 22 of which claim 13 is independent. In the Office Action, the Examiner has canceled claims in accordance with MPEP §1214.06 and objects to claims 3-6, 11-15, 17-19 and 22. The Examiner has asked that all dependent allowable claims be placed in independent form.

With this Amendment, dependent claims 3, 11, 17 and 22 which depended on canceled claims 1, 2, 10, 16 and 20 are amended to place these objected to dependent claims into independent form. The remaining objected to claims 4-6, 12-15 and 18-19 are also now in proper form. Claims 4-6 continue to depend on claim 3, claim 12 continues to depend on claim 11, claim 13 is independently allowable, claims 14-15 continue to depend on claim 13 and claims 18-19 continue to depend on claim 17.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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